



### REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-26 are allowed and that the application will be issued as a patent once "minor informalities" have been remedied. Applicant provides comments on the identified informalities and the stated reasons for allowance in the following.

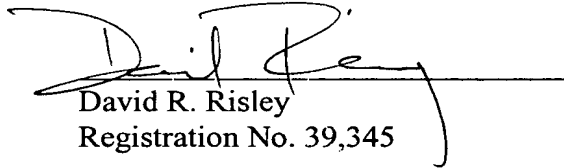
In regard the purported informalities, the Office Action suggests various changes to the second paragraph of page 1 of Applicant's specification. Although Applicant has entered one of those suggested changes in an attempt to comply with the Examiner's wishes, Applicant has declined to enter the other changes given that those changes skew the intended meaning of sentences of the paragraph and/or modify the paragraph to incorrectly describe the state of the art. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner reconsider the basis for the objections to the second paragraph of page 1. If after such reconsideration the Examiner is still of the opinion that the suggested changes must be entered, Applicant requests the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500 to discuss the reasons behind such a requirement.

In describing the reasons for allowance of Applicant's claims, the Office Action states as follows:

Unlike *McLean et al.*, the claimed invention is a method for testing a network service. The method includes sending an initial request to the network service, redirecting a related request sent by the network service to an actual network service such that the related request does not reach the actual network service; and emulating operation of the actual network service; and returning at least one response to the network service being tested, the at least one response being to the related request.

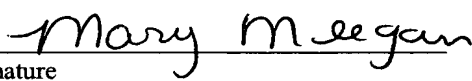
Applicant notes that the above excerpt reflects the limitations of independent claim 1. Although Applicant agrees that the limitations of claim 1 distinguish that claim over the prior art of record, Applicant notes that Applicant's other independent claims are distinct from claim 1 and, therefore, comprise different limitations. For example, independent claims 9 and 16 are directed to "systems", and claim 22 is directed to a "test environment". Although Applicant believes that claims 9, 16, and 22 are, as claim 1, allowable over the prior art of record, Applicant notes for the record that claims 9, 16, and 22 do not comprise the limitations of claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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12-10-04

  
Signature